

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1832

GENEVA FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, DA

SUBJECT: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO DENMARK

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SUMMARY. DURING HIS FOUR DAY VISIT HERE THIS WEEK GDR

FOROEIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER RAISED NO CONTENTIOUS ISSUES STUCK TO THE BLOC POSITION ON CSCE AND MBFR AND GENERALLY GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF A STATESMAN TRYING TO PUT HIS BEST FOOT FORWARD AND TO DO NOTHING WHICH MIGHT OFFEND HIS HOSTS.

END SUMMARY.

1. KORSGAARD-PEDERSEN WHO IS IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT THE MFA TOLD THE DCM JUNE 27 THAT FISCHER'S VISIT WHICH ENDED JUNE 26 HAD BEEN HIS FIRST OUTSIDE THE BLOC AS FOREIGN MINISTER. THE DANES HAD BEEN CORRECT IN THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT HE WOULD NOT BRING ANYTHING VERY NEW IN THE POLITICAL FIELD IN FACT HE HAD STUCK AS CLOSE TO THE BLOC LINE AS EXPECTED. K-P SAID HOWEVER THAT IT WAS ONLY FAIR TO ADD THAT FISCHER HAD MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. HE WAS NOT WITHOUT A SENSE OF HUMOR AND HAD BEEN READY IN MOST INSTANCES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. THE ATMOSPHERE DURING THE TALKS -- AND THE DANES APPARENTLY HAD A SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TIME IN STRETCHING THE THIN AGENDA OVER FOUR DAYS -- HAD BEEN FAIRLY RELAXED. FISCHER SEEMED TO MAKE AN EFFORT NOT TO RAISE ANY BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED CONTROVERSIAL. THE DANES HAD EXPECTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT HE MIGHT PRESS THEM FOR A CONSULAR CONVENTION OR FOR GDR MILITARY ATTACHES IN COPENHAGEN BUT NEITHER SUBJECT HAD BEEN MENTIONED. FOR THEIR PART THE DANES LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN HAD MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF ENDING THE TRADE IMBALANCE WHICH NOW FAVORED THE GDR. (HE DID NOT DWELL AT LENGTH ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN RATHER EXHAUSTIVELY DISCUSSED DURING FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTER NORGAARD'S TRIP TO EAST BERLIN LAST WEEK -- COPENHAGEN 1746). ANDERSEN HAD ALSO NOTED THAT THE DANES HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE THEIR NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS IN THE GDR. THIS WAS ONLY MENTIONED BECAUSE A GDR TEAM IS DUE IN COPENHAGEN NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THESE CLAIMS. ONE SUBJECT ON WHICH THE DANES HAD PRESSED THE GDR WAS THAT OF CULTURAL COOPERATION. K-P EXPLAINED THAT THEY DID NOT NECESSARILY WANT A CULTURAL AGREEMENT AS SUCH, BUT THEY HAVE COME TO THE VIEW THAT IN LIGHT OF CSCE DEVELOPMENTS IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE

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ON THIS SUBJECT. THEY HAD FOUND FISCHER RATHER RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER ANYTHING FIRM IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AT THIS TIME ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE RESULTS OF THE CSCE SHOULD FIRST BE AWAITED. THE DANES ARE GOING TO KEEP RAISING THIS ISSUE K-P SAID.

2. CSCE: FISCHER SAID THE TIME WAS NOW RIGHT TO MOVE TO THE THIRD PHASE ALTHOUGHT HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON THE

PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE GDR HAD DONE ITS PART TO SPEED UP PROGRESS IN PHASE II BY MAKING WHAT HE CALLED CONCESSIONS IN REGARD TO THE TRANSLATION PROBLEM. ANDERSEN SAID THAT THE DANES ALSO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THERE COULD BE A THIRD PHASE AND POINTED OUT THAT THE SUBJECT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION IN DUBLIN. FISCHER HAD BEEN GIVEN A REPORT OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONCLUSIONS ON CSCE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

3. MBFR: AS EXPECTED FISCHER HAD STAUNCHLY DEFENDED THE EASTERN POSITION. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO HAVE REDUCTIONS WHICH WERE NOT AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR BOTH SIDES OR WHICH INCLUDED TECHNOLOGY ONLY ON THE EASTERN SIDE AND NOT ON THE WESTERN SIDE. (THIS LATTER POINT HAD SOMEWHAT PUZZLED HIS DANISH HOSTS. IT HAD EVIDENTLY NOT BEEN A SLIP OF THE TONGUE BECAUSE HE REPEATED IT IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION HERE.

K-P SAID THAT FISHER HAD BEEN MORE SPECIFIC ON MBFR THAN THE DANES HAD EXPECTED AND HE OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN WELL BRIEFED.

4. GERMAN AFFAIRS: FISCHER HAD EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN SOME DETAIL ON THE SITUATION IN THE FRG. HE SAID THEY WERE FAIRLY WELL SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT COALITION IN BONN AND HOPED IT WOULD STAY. HOWEVER THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT ALL PARTIES IN THE FRG WERE TRYING TO BECOME GOOD COALITION PARTNERS THEY COULD EVEN ENVISION SATISFACTORY COOPERATION WITH A CDU/CSU GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH HE MADE THE EXPECTED SHARP ATTACK ON STRAUSS. IN REPLY ANDERSEN HAD SAID THAT THE DANES HAD SYMPATHIZED WITH BRANDT AND HIS OSTPOLITIK AND WERE SAD THAT HE HAD HAD TO LEAVE. (THERE HAD BEEN NO REACTION FROM THE GDR SIDE; LATER WHEN ASKED BY A JOURNALIST ABOUT GUNTHER GUILLAUME, FISCHER HAD SAID: "I DO NOT
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SHARE THIS CONCERN.") AS TO STRAUSS ANDERSEN SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE IN POLITICS WHO EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS STRONGLY BUT PERHAPS THEY WERE MOST EVIDENT IN COUNTRIES WITH MULTI-PARTY SYSTEMS. (COMMENT: ANDERSEN CAN ALWAYS TWIST A KNIFE WITH A SMILE).

5. BERLIN: FISCHER HAD TALKED MORE ABOUT BERLIN THAN THE DANES HAD EXPECTED. HE HAD SET FORTH THE WELL-KNOWN GDR LEGAL POSITION WHICH THE DANES SAID THEY DID NOT SHARE. THEY HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT HE HAD DWELT AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH AND IN SOME DETAIL WITH THE RECENT DEATH OF A TURKISH BOY ALONG THE SECTOR BOUNDARY. FISCHER HAD EXPLAINED THAT THEBOY'S BEATH WAS NOT THEIR FAULT IN FACT THE FAULT LAY ON THE OTHER SIDE BECAUSE THE GDR AUTHORITIES HAD CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF THE AREA WHERE

THE BOY WAS. FISCHER HAD BECOME QUITE ANIMATED IN THIS DISCUSSION AND HAD EVEN DRAWN A CHART FOR THE DANISH FOMIN OF HOW THE INCIDENT HAD HAPPENED. IT SEEMED OBVIOUS K-P SAID THAT THE EAST GERMANS FEARED THAT THE DEATH OF THE BOY HAD BEEN A PROPAGANDA BLOW FOR THEM.

6. PORTUGAL: THE DANES HAD SAID THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY BUT FELT THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WHICH MIGHT BRING ABOUT A DICTATORSHIP AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM FROM THE LAST PORTUGUESE DICTATORSHIP COULD HAVE A VERY DANGEROUS EFFECT ON DETENTE. FISCHER REPLIED THAT THE GDR WAS ALSO AGAINST THE EXTREME FORCES IN PORTUGAL BUT K-P SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE HAD THE MAOISTS IN MIND. THE DANES HAD HOWEVER WANTED TO GIVE THIS SIGNAL TO THE GDR.

7. OTHER SUBJECTS: K-P SAID THAT UN AFFAIRS CHILE AND INDOCHINA HAD ALSO BEEN TOUCHED UPON BUT NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE HAD BEEN SAID.

8. THE QUEEN: WHEN THE EAST GERMANS HAD SEEN THE SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOR FISCHER THEY ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CALL ON QUEEN MARGARETHE II. THE DANES HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE QUEEN WAS AT HER SUMMER PALACE IN JUTLAND BUT THE EAST GERMANS PERSISTED AND SO A QUARTER HOUR MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED. THE DANES
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HAD BEEN MILDLY AMUSED AT THIS LAST GERMAN INSISTENCE IN CALLING ON ROYALTY.

9. COMMENT: THE ORIGINAL INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO FISCHER'S PREDECESSOR, OTTO WINZER. THE DANES THINK THIS IS WHAT MADE IT EASY FOR FISCHER TO CHOOSE DENMARK FOR HIS FIRST NON-BLOC TRIP AND BELIEVE THAT HIS VISIT HERE WAS ANOTHER PART OF THE GDDR'S CAMPAIGN TO WIN GREATER ACCEPTABILITY. THIS IS A GROWING FEELING HERE K-P SAID THAT THE GDR IS A FACT OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE AS WELL AS AN IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR FOR DENMARK AND THAT IT IS PROBABLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF BOTH IF RELATIONS DEVELOP WITH CIVILITY. FISCHER'S VISIT DID NOTHING TO CHANGE THEIR OPINION IN THIS REGARD.
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